MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Just now I can mention about 17 schools. which require most urgent repairs or reconstruction. A list of such schools was sent to the Public Works Department.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Then may I know the reason why Government are not allotting sufficient funds for repairing them ?

MR. C. V. CHANDARASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Funds are provided to the extent available.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Are not the Government aware that the condition of such schools is dangerous for the pupil's life and health ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : The answer says that it is not dangerous to their health or to their life.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know whether the parents have reported that it is dangerous to retain such schools as they may greatly affect the life and health of their children ?

MR. C. V. CHANDARASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : In cases where the schools are in a dangerous condition, the Government shift the school to a temporary shed. Sometimes the department takes a house on rent, whenever the school is found to be in very unsafe condition. Adequate steps are taken immediately in such cases.

Maximum number of students in School Classes.

76. ***MR. K. MAHOMED** (*Alwaye*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the maximum number of students that could be admitted in one class ;

(*b*) whether, in any departmental or non-departmental school, this number has been exceeded ; and

(*c*) if so, the reason for so doing ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) :

(*a*) The member is referred to Rule 95 (*b*) of the Education Code as amended by the Government Notification R. O. C. No. 316 of 22/ Rev. E., dated the 21st July 1922.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Owing to the rush for admission.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : In reference to answer to part (*a*) will the member be pleased to give a definite answer ?

PRESIDENT : Was the Notification published ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : It was published in the Government Gazette. May I read the rule, Sir ?

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : That is a thing which took place some years back.

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PRESIDENT: So long as the Notification was published in the Gazette and the members have access to that, the answer given by the Director is entirely correct. The Director is prepared to read the particular rule for the member's information if he wants it.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag Director of Public Instruction*): The rule is as follows :

95 (*b*) The maximum number of pupils on the rolls of the Preparatory Class or division thereof shall not exceed 35 and in the classes of Vernacular Schools, and Forms of English Schools, or divisions thereof, the maximum number on the rools shall not exceed 40. But to allow for possible shrinkage in the course of the year, Managers and Headmasters of all recognised schools are permitted to admit 5 pupils in excess of the number specified in any class or Form within the first fifteen days of the school year.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know the maximum number of students that could be admitted after the general admissions are over?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have already asnwered that question.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether the maximum number is 50 or above that?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That has been answered.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether it is permissible to exceed this number?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*). Yes.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): May I know whether the member is aware that there are more than 100 students in one class in certain schools?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am not aware.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know what is the margin left for admission after the rush of admissions?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Usually a slight excess over the prescribed number. Say in a class of 45 pupils, the strength may go up to 55 at the utmost. If the number goes beyond that, usually a new division will be formed.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is the Director aware that, in the Nagercoil Tamil High School, the number of students admitted to the Class VIII is over 87?

MR. C. V. CHANDARASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, is the question in order when we are dealing with primary schools? Mr. Sivatanu Pillai's question deals with Vernacular High Schools.

PRESIDENT: If you know, you may answer it.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am aware that there is great congestion.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether any steps have been taken to remove that congestion?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, Sir.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the nature of the steps taken?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): May I know, Sir, whether these questions are in order?

PRESIDENT: No, the member's questions are not in order.

Places of public worship for Christians.

76. ✱ **MR. T. K. ALEXANDER** (*Kunnatnad I*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that permission to open places of public worship for the Christians needs the previous assent of the Devaswom Commissioner?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

Central Cocoanut Committee.

77. ✱**MR K. SANKARAN** (*Kartikapalli I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to the several steps that are being taken by the Ceylon Government to promote the welfare of the cocoanut cultivators and to protect the cocoanut industry in Ceylon;

(*b*) whether they have thought of any definite scheme by which the ruinous fate of the cocoanut cultivators of the State could be improved;

(*c*) what steps they have taken to protect Travancore cocoanut cultivators from the unhealthy competition from Ceylon; and

(*d*) whether they have thought of the advisability of appointing a Central Cocoanut Committee to advise the Government from time to time as to how to protect and promote the interests of the cocoanut cultivators of the State?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) They have already taken steps in that direction and have accordingly reduced the export duty on copra, cocoanuts, oil and punnac from 1-1-1110.

(*c*) Representations have been made to the Government of India to enhance the import duties and tariff values of cocoanuts, copra, cocoanut oil, coir-yarn and coir-fibre imported into British India from foreign countries.

(*d*) Yes. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has been moved for the formation of a Central Cocoanut Committee on the lines of the Central Cotton Committee. The formation of a Cocoanut Committee in Travancore is also under the consideration of Government.

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